

REMARKS

These remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed February 17, 2005 in the above identified patent application.

Summary of the Amendment

Upon entry of the above amendment, Claims 34, 38, 46, and 48 will have been amended, and Claims 33, 36-37, 39-45, and 47 will have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The Examiner allowed Claims 5-13, 32, 39-42, and 49-55, and Applicant gratefully acknowledges the same. Accordingly, Claims 5-13, 32, 34-35, 38, 46, and 48-55 remain currently pending.

Although Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner regarding the rejection of Claims 33, 36, 37, 43-45, and 47, Applicant cancels these claims without prejudice in order to expedite the issuance of the patent. Applicant anticipates filing a continuation application to pursue these cancelled claims.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 33, 36, 37, 43-45, and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Standiford et al. However, the Examiner merely objected to Claims 34, 35, 38, 46, and 48. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, the Examiner allowed Claims 5-13, 32, 39-42, and 49-55. In response to the Examiner's request, Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks.

Amendment to Claims 34, 38, 46, and 48

The Examiner objected to Claims 34, 38, 46, and 48 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to incorporate the limitations of their base claim. Pursuant to this request Applicant has rewritten Claims 34, 38, 46, and 48 in independent form to incorporate the limitations of their respective base claims. In addition, objected-to Claim 35, which depends from Claim 34, was not amended, but nevertheless should also now be in condition for

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allowance given the amendment to Claim 34. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be allowed.

Patent Issuance Fees Have Already Been Paid

Applicant respectfully reminds the Examiner that the issuance fees have already been paid for the present patent. In response to the first Notice of Allowance dated December 3, 2003, Applicant paid an issuance fee of \$995 including fees for issuance, publication, and ten copies of the patent on February 18, 2004. However, this payment was unnecessary given the subsequent Office Action responded to herein. By the present Amendment, Applicant anticipates that a second Notice of Allowance will soon be issued. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner apply the Applicant's previous payment of fees toward issuance fees required by the anticipated second Notice of Allowance.

CONCLUSION

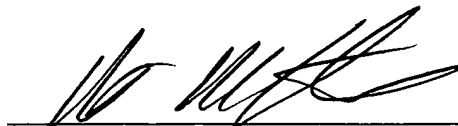
In view of the above amendment and remarks Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of the above identified application. Should the examiner have any questions or suggestions for expediting allowance of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below. If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 19-4330.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

4/18/05

By:



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